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**APRIL 6, 2005  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FORMER BANK MANAGER SENTENCED FOR BANK FRAUD**

GREENBELT, Maryland - Allen F. Loucks, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that Shabnam Das, age 44, of Frederick, Maryland was sentenced today by U.S. District Court Judge Alexander Williams to serve 15 months in prison, to be followed by 3 years of supervised release as a result of her guilty plea on July 23, 2004 to bank fraud. Judge Williams also ordered Das to pay approximately \$44,000 in restitution.

According to the statement of facts presented at the guilty plea on July 23, 2004, from about November 23, 2002 through February 18, 2004, Shabnam Das used her position as a branch manager at either the Kingsville or Neelsville branches of Chevy Chase Bank to access customer accounts for unauthorized purposes. Das withdrew funds from customer accounts, opened new accounts in customer names and with Das' home address, and changed the address on customer accounts, all without their knowledge or consent. To conceal the unauthorized transactions, Das sometimes used the bank identification numbers of other Chevy Chase employees to conduct these transactions. The loss caused by these transactions was more than \$57,000. Das repaid \$9,687 after the fraud was detected.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Secret Service and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Donna Sanger.